

I Will Build My Church (Matthew 16:13-18)

Proposition: Every follower of the Lord Jesus can fulfill their role as a member of the church by understanding the three basic church truths found in the text before us today.

I. The Constructor of the Church (Vs. 18a-b)

- A. The Ordained Constructor (Vs. 18b "I")
- B. The Only Constructor (Vs. 18b "I will build")
- C. The Owning Constructor (Vs. 18b "my church")

II. The Conflict of the Church (Vs. 18c)

- A. A Defensive Conflict (Vs. 18c "prevail")
- B. An Offensive Conflict (Vs. 18c "gates of hell")

III. The Confidence of the Church (Vs. 18c "shall not")

- A. The Confidence of Triumph (Vs. 18c "it")
- B. The Confidence in Truth (Vs. 18 "it")

I Will Build My Church (Matt 16:13-18)

I am not much of a builder, but over the years I have been involved in several home improvement building projects. Add a wall here, take out a wall there, build a closet here place a door there. And to be honest I really enjoy doing it. It's just the whole starting and finishing part that I'm not so good at. Once I get going, I am a fury of activity for 6, 8, even 10 hours. That is once I get going. Then after that time I just run out of gas, lose interest, get to some thing I think I can't do or just don't want to do and I quit. I believe we can all here either identify or at least understand. Well when it comes to building projects, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is undertaking a massive one. It is one that has been going on for some 2000 years. Its foundation was laid by the apostles & prophets with the all important cornerstone being Jesus Christ Himself. Construction work goes on constantly 24-7, ... 365/year. And the materials

I. The Constructor of the Church-

I worked for a residential construction co. I was amazed at how the Builder could take the paper plans we drew up a great beautiful house and build it. Well I ... the architect

constructor Jesus takes the of eternal foreknowledge an church.

A. The Ordained Constructor - Vs 18 is preceded by Peter's great confession. Jesus asking who do you say that I am. "Thou art Christ The Messiah. The Circumstances of God. God of very God. Jesus refers to this truth as the Rock upon which the church is built. Jesus is the Rock, the unmovable, unshakable, cornerstone of the church of the living God. One author writes "The

B. The Only Constructor - "I will..." There is no shortage of books on how to build a great church. You can use a particular; music, time, place, message, And these may very well build a great crowd. But a crowd is not a church. A church is that crowd called out of the crowd to be a follower of the Lord Jesus. And that calling and

C. The Owning Constructor - Now I know what a person mean when they say, that's my church or her church or our church. But in many smaller churches you will find a person or two that may have poured a footer or raised a wall that if not by word, but by deed says this is My Church. No it's not. It may be on your grandpa's

II. The Conflict of the Church

Here in this verse we see a conflict arise an enemy is mentioned, a battle is brought up. No the church is not entitled to a leisurely walk in the Park

1) ...and the materials are not mortar stone and brick but mortals who were sinners now turned into believers. If you are one of those believes, you have a role of participation in this ambitious building project. But maybe like me you can't get started or maybe you have and have kinda fizzled along the way. Well that's what this message is about. Every follower of the Lord Jesus can fulfill their role as a member of the church by understanding the three basic church truths found in the text before us today.

2) ..."The rock-like characteristics of Christ distinguish Him from all other celebrities. "He abides the same yesterday, today and forever" all free from fluctuation and instability." Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hid my self in thee!

3) ...that calling and that saving is done only by Jesus Himself! In Matthew 4:19 I will make you fishers of men, Matthew 11:28 I will give you rest, John 14:3 I will come again so in Matthew 16:18 I will build my church.

4) ...grand pappy's land but it ain't your church! You may have bought the two by fours and even own title deed to the building, but the church ain't yours! He bought it with his very blood, He called and culled it out of the world of sin, He regenerated it and breathed new life into it, it's his church!

1) ...over come evil with good, pull down the strong holds of Satan
Cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself
against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every
thought to the obedience of Christ; Sound the battle cry! Lift up
the banner! Just as Uncle Sam pointed out to young men during
WW2 so God is saying I want you. **Esther 4:14** *For if thou
altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there
enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another
place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and
who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a
time as this?* God's gonna bring deliverance. Why not let Him
use you! Vance Havner said "If He's gonna build His church, we
need to quit sitting on the premises and go to standing on the
promises! Onward Christian Soldiers!

but No there is an opposition a conflict w/o church

A. A Defensive Conflict - Notice the word prevail - literally means to over power. We see that this assembly is in a defensive position as all the ^{theories and counsel, rule} demons

demons rush thru hell's gates to attack the church. The church is a stronghold of security and purity. Satan has tried persecution, division, apostasy, worldliness, sin to invade the church, and yet she still stands. Our church is a city of safety and refuge, a city on a hill, the pillar and ground of the truth.

B. An Offensive Conflict - Note also the wording "gates" "prevail"? Gates

really don't attack anything. No an army attacks gates. We as the church of the Living God are to attack the gates. So often we get into just a defensive mode. We just hunker down and wait for an attack. My old basketball coach would say "You boys are playing not to lose. Instead of playing to win." We need to offensively take the battle out to the enemy. The King has commanded: Go ye!... Charge! Overcome!

III. The Confidence of the Church
In professional sports, there have been many occasions where it has been discovered that the fight was fixed. Well when it comes to the cabinet

building the church, the fee is in, and we will win!

A. The Confidence of Triumph -

I will build My Church, ... shall not prevail. This building project is going on no matter how Satan and his imps from hell spit venom and wage attacks. I will Build my church No matter how the world despises her, and attempts to malign and disfigure her! Jesus said, I will Build my church ... No matter how apathetic its saints, or how indifferent the sinner. "I will Build my church ... All the father hath given me will come! There they will

B. The Confidence of Truth -

But our confidence is not rooted in the abilities of the church to conquer the gates of Hell. Not in the allurement of the church to conquer ... Not in the administrations of the church to conquer the gates of Hell ... Our confidence is in the Anointed Messiah of the Church. Spurgeon after told the story of a dying elderly lady who was visited by her pastor as she struggled for breath, the pastor asked, are you sinking? A look of shock

IV. Close

There is a building project going on! The promise of Christ should motivate us, to get in the project. Have you fizzled in your participation in the project. Get Back into the labor. Lost! Jesus is Build

1) ...there they will be in that last day, surrounding the throne in pur white garments, a people of every color and race and stature singing a new song that no man had ever sung before: Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

2) ...a look of shock and disgust came across the dying woman's face. She didn't even answer him. The pastor asked again, "Are you sinking?" With great effort she raised up and the same look on her face she said, "Sinking? Sinking? No! If I were standing on the sand I might sink, But thank God pastor I'm standing on the Rock of Ages, and there is not sinking there!" Confidence in the Truth of Christ!